

**FARMINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Tuesday, May 25, 2021**

**6:30 P.M.**

**The meeting was conducted through remote access by telephonic, video, and electronic means. The public was able to attend by viewing the livestream at <http://mtbluetv.org/program-live-stream-farmington-selectmen.html> or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MBTV11/> and/or calling 778-3464.**

Chairman Matthew Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with the following members present: Michael Fogg, Stephan Bunker, Joshua Bell, and Scott Landry. Town Manager Richard Davis, Town Secretary Nancy Martin, Town Clerk Leanne Dickey, Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster, Public Works Director Philip Hutchinson, Police Chief Kenneth Charles, Mt. Blue TV camera operator Tom Martin and members of the public were also present. Members of the press participated remotely as authorized by PL 209, c.617.

**Votes were taken by roll call.**

**ITEM 1: Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Chairman Smith led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ITEM 2: To Hold a Public Hearing and Vote on a Renewal Application for a Lunch Wagon Permit for White Fox Taverna, owned and operated by Nikolaos Regas, located at 800 Fairbanks Road**

Chairman Smith opened the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:31 P.M.

Richard Davis reviewed the renewal application for Innkeeper and Lunch Wagon Permit for White Fox Taverna, owned and operated by Nikolaos Regas.

Chairman Smith closed the Public Hearing under Item 2 at 6:31 P.M.

**Michael Fogg moved to approve the renewal application of White Fox Taverna; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**ITEM 3: To Award the bid for the Hippach Fieldhouse Roof Replacement and Authorize Appropriations from the Hippach Field Projects Reserve Account for the Roof Replacement and LED Tennis Court Light Replacement**

Richard Davis provided a copy of the tabulation sheet provided by Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Foster. Three (3) Hippach Fieldhouse Roof Replacement bids were received with total costs ranging from \$24,950 to \$41,000. The bids are Fowler's Roofing and Construction: \$24,950, Steelman Roofing: \$27,750, and Maine Metal Roofing: \$41,000. Both Fowler's and Steelman Roofing included 10-year labor and 35-year manufacturer warranties. Maine Metal Roofing did not indicate any warranties. Tennis Court LED light replacement quotes were received from: Musco Lighting (Oakalossak, IA), IEC Electric (Farmington, ME), Hamlin

**ITEM 3: To Award the bid for the Hippach Fieldhouse Roof Replacement and Authorize Appropriations from the Hippach Field Projects Reserve Account for the Roof Replacement and LED Tennis Court Light Replacement (continued)**

Electric (New Sharon, ME), and Adrenaline Electric (Farmington, ME). Mr. Foster stated that Adrenaline Electric is recommended to complete the Tennis Court LED light replacement project for an estimated \$6,358.84. Mr. Foster recommended that the Selectmen award the fieldhouse roof replacement bid to Fowler's Roofing and Construction in the amount of \$24,950 and approve the use of the Hippach Field Projects Reserve Account to fund the fieldhouse roof replacement project and the tennis court LED light replacement project. A lengthy discussion ensued, during which Mr. Foster answered the Selectmen's questions.

**Joshua Bell moved to award the bid for the Hippach Fieldhouse roof replacement to Fowler's Roofing and Construction at a cost of \$24,950 and authorize up to \$1,200 from the Hippach Field Projects Reserve Account for additional roof replacement expenses; Michael Fogg seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote –Matthew Smith: yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**Joshua Bell moved to authorize the expenditure of \$6,358.84 from the Hippach Field Projects Reserve Account for LED tennis court light replacement; Scott Landry seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**ITEM 4: To Approve an Expenditure of \$71,959.40 from the Public Works Building Reserve Account to Replace the Heating System at the Town Garage**

Richard Davis provided a copy of the sales proposal from Dead River Company dated May 20, 2021. Installation of the proposed boiler burners includes removal and disposal of the existing boiler and all associated connections for the new boilers.

**Stephan Bunker moved to authorize the expenditure of \$71,959.40 from the Public Works Building Reserve Account to replace the heating system at the Town Garage; Michael Fogg seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**ITEM 5: To Accept the Following two (2) Grants to the Police Department:**

- **MMA Safety Grant of up to \$2,000 to Purchase Load Bearing Vests, Shirts, and Attachments to Relieve Weight of Duty Belts**
- **Edward S. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (ByrneJAG) Grant of \$2,853 to Purchase Game Cameras and an Additional Load Bearing Vest with Shirts and Attachments**

Police Chief Kenneth Charles demonstrated the load bearing vest. The vest and attachments are designed to carry spare ammunition, pepper spray, tourniquets, two sets of

**ITEM 5: To Accept the Following two (2) Grants to the Police Department: (continued)**

handcuffs, Kevlar plates, and a taser. The vest distributes the weight more evenly versus the duty belt which typically distributes the weight across the officer's waist line. An added benefit of the vest is that it is easier to put on and to remove and is much more comfortable to wear. Several officers were fitted with the load bearing vest based on recommendations from their medical provider. The vest should reduce medical issues created by the duty belt. With a cost of \$50 each, the proposed uniform shirts are approximately half the cost of the current shirts, which range between \$75 to \$100 each. Chief Charles stated that the shirts wear better, are less likely to snag, offer better ventilation, and are much more comfortable.

The proposed game cameras will provide real time footage and offer better quality imaging. Chief Charles stated that they recently had video of a suspect, but due to the poor quality of the image, they were unable to determine who was pictured. Chief Charles answered the Selectmen's questions.

**Joshua Bell moved to accept the MMA Safety Grant of up to \$2,000 to purchase load bearing vests, shirts, and attachments to relieve weight of duty belts and to accept the Edward S. Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (ByrneJAG) Grant of \$2,853 to purchase game cameras and an additional load bearing vest with shirts and attachments; Michael Fogg seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**ITEM 6: To Consider Taking Advantage of a no-cost Lease Offer for an Electric Vehicle**

Richard Davis reviewed an email dated May 17, 2021 from Commercial Account Manager Tim Caron of Rowe Ford Westbrook. Hyundai is offering a 10,000 mile a year lease on the Hyundai Kona EV and Ionic EV to municipalities and school departments for \$0.00 per month. Hyundai and Efficiency Maine are offering \$23,000 in rebates which cover the monthly payments on the lease. Mr. Davis reported that he has since learned that Efficiency Maine reduced its rebate from \$12,000 to \$10,000 and the cost of the vehicle would be \$2,000 up front or \$60 per month, plus \$565 for insurance. Based on this new information, Mr. Davis recommended the Town not pursue the lease.

**Joshua Bell moved to pass on the lease offer for an electric vehicle; Matthew Smith seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**ITEM 7: To Hold a Special Town Meeting pursuant to a Warrant Approved on May 11, 2021 (7:00 P.M.)**

Town Clerk Leanne Dickey opened the Special Town Meeting under Item 7 at 7:03 P.M and called for nominations for moderator under Article First. Paul Mills was declared and sworn in as moderator after receiving the nomination and second, as well as five written ballots.

**Michael Fogg moved to approve Article Second; Joshua Bell seconded. Article Second was approved by a show of hands.**

**ITEM 7: To Hold a Special Town Meeting pursuant to a Warrant Approved on May 11, 2021 (7:00 P.M.) (continued)**

**Matthew Smith moved to approve Article Third; Stephan Bunker seconded. Article Third was approved by a show of hands.**

**Matthew Smith moved to approve Article Fourth; Joshua Bell seconded. Article Fourth was approved by a show of hands.**

**Stephan Bunker moved to approve Article Fifth; Joshua Bell seconded. Article Fifth was approved by a show of hands.**

The Special Town Meeting adjourned and the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen resumed at 7:08 P.M.

**ITEM 8: To Consider a Proposal for Replacing the Retiring Sexton**

Richard Davis reported that Cemetery Sexton Ed Vining would like to retire and initiated a discussion regarding replacement options. Mr. Davis stated that Mr. Vining oversees opening the graves, all maintenance, and he answers a lot of genealogy questions. Mr. Davis stated that he met with Funeral Director Kent Wiles of Wiles Funeral Home and Sexton Vining and they discussed having Wiles Funeral Home employ the Sexton and assume the responsibility for selling the cemetery lots and opening the graves. Wiles Funeral Home would bill the customers directly. The Town would receive the revenues generated by the sale of the lots, and Wiles Funeral Home would retain the fees for opening the grave site. Cemetery maintenance (mowing, trimming, and general upkeep of the cemetery) could be contracted out or handled in-house by the Parks and Recreation Department or the Public Works Department. A discussion regarding the pros and cons of part-time seasonal workers and full time employees who swing between departments (sidewalk snow-plow in the winter/Cemetery maintenance in the summer) was had. Scott Landry asked what costs were involved. Mr. Davis stated that there are three parts: Sexton wages, labor, and equipment/infrastructure costs. The discussion is to continue at a future meeting(s).

**ITEM 9: To Consider Cancelling the June 8, 2021 Regular Selectmen's Meeting**

Richard Davis asked the board to consider cancelling the June 8, 2021 Selectmen's Meeting as he will be on vacation the week of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Michael Fogg moved to cancel the June 8, 2021 regular Selectmen's Meeting; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

The next Board of Selectmen's Meeting is scheduled for June 22nd.

**ITEM 10: To Approve the Minutes of May 11, 2021**

**Joshua Bell moved to approve the minutes of May 11, 2021; Scott Landry seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business**

- A. Richard Davis reviewed the following Cemetery lot Conveyance: Carol McNally for one (1) grave in Fairview Cemetery .

**Stephan Bunker moved to approve the Cemetery lot Conveyance as noted above; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

The Selectmen signed the Cemetery lot Conveyance.

- B. Richard Davis reminded the Selectmen that the Town Office will close at noon on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> for maintenance. ABT Plumbing will replace and repipe two defective water main shut off valves in the boiler room. They will also replace the Flushometer in the men’s restroom down stairs, repair a leak located outside the Planning Office, and replace the on/off valve for the outside water hose. Currently the water main shut off valve inside the Municipal Building does not work. The Water District must shut the water supply off at the street.
- C. Richard Davis provided an update on the search for a new Town Manager. Don Gerrish of Eaton Peabody Consulting Group has received eleven (11) applications for the Town Manager position. Four (4) applications are from Maine. Mr. Gerrish expects to receive three to five more applications by the end of the day today, which is the deadline for applying. Mr. Gerrish will overnight booklets to Chairman Smith on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> for delivery on Friday. The booklets will contain the resumes of all the candidates and Mr. Gerrish’s recommendations on whom to interview. Mr. Gerrish is scheduled to meet with the Selectmen on Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the resumes and decide who they would like to interview. Mr. Davis stated that he spoke with the University of Maine Farmington about using one of their rooms to interview candidates, either in person or via Zoom. Interviews with the candidates will be conducted in Executive Session, and are scheduled to take place Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Michael Fogg asked if University of Maine Farmington’s decision not to assist with the cost of the High Street lighting project affected the number of lights being installed. Richard Davis stated that the Town eliminated a few decorative street lights by increasing the spacing between them from seventy-five feet to ninety feet. He stated that the Town needs to install an adequate number of lights to be effective. Mr. Davis reminded the Selectmen that they decided to fund all the lights through the TIF Reserve Account, and at the time of the tax commitment they will need to appropriate \$150,000 to the TIF Reserve Account.
- E. Joshua Bell asked if the water gate at Walton’s Mill dam was open. Richard Davis stated that the gate is open, and the water level is dropping. The project manager projected that it would take three weeks to drain the area. The hole is very small and heavy rain will raise water levels.

Joshua Bell requested that a discussion regarding how to best utilize the solar farm revenues be placed on a future Board of Selectmen’s Meeting Agenda. Mr. Bell would like to discuss options prior to tax commitment time. Richard Davis stated that Assessor John O’Donnell also requested to meet with the Selectmen and discuss how to best apply the funds. Mr. O’Donnell suggested the Town consider setting up a Tax Stabilization Fund. Mr. Davis stated that the excess revenues could also accrue to the Unassigned Fund Balance. He reported that with the state of completion as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the Town will receive approximately \$400,000 in revenues for this year. When fully operational, the projected revenues are approximately \$1.5 million with the amount depreciating over time. Mr. Davis agreed to place the topic on a future Board of Selectmen agenda and allow time for a lengthy discussion.

**ITEM 11: To Discuss Other Business (other)**

- F.** Matthew Smith stated that on Memorial Day the American Legion will do their traditional wreath laying ceremony at the World War I Monument at 10:00 A.M., and then at 10:30 A.M. the Emblem Club will conduct a flag folding ceremony at Meeting House Park. Paul Harnden will play Taps at both events.

There being no further business to come before the Board, **Scott Landry moved to adjourn at 7:55 P.M.; Joshua Bell seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote – Matthew Smith: Yes, Stephan Bunker: Yes, Michael Fogg: Yes, Joshua Bell: Yes, Scott Landry: Yes**

**VOTE            AFFIRMATIVE            5            MOTION CARRIED**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy L. Martin.

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Michael J. Fogg - Secretary